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Belarus

The present report is a compilation of the information contained in reports of the treaty bodies and special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, in reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in other relevant official United Nations documents. It is presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints. For the full texts, please refer to the documents referenced. The report does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights other than those contained in public reports and statements issued by the Office. It follows the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council in its decision 17/119. Information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the periodicity of the review, and developments during that period.

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Please recycle

I. Background and framework

A. Scope of international obligations[1]

International human rights treaties[2]

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified not accepted*
Ratification, accession or succession	ICERD (1969)		OP-CAT
	ICESCR (1973)		ICCPR-OP 2
	ICCPR (1973)		ICRMW
	CEDAW (1981)		CRPD
	CAT (1987)		ICPPED
	CRC (1990)		
	OP-CRC-AC (2006)		
	OP-CRC-SC (2002)		
Reservations and/or declarations	ICERD (declaration, art. 17(1), 1969)		
	OP-CRC-AC (declaration, art. 3 (2), minimum age of recruitment at 18, 2006)		
Complaints procedures, inquiries and urgent action[3]	ICCPR, art. 41 (1992)		ICERD, art. 14
	ICCPR-OP 1 (1992)		OP-ICESCR
	OP-CEDAW, art. 8 (2004)		CAT, arts. 21 and 22
	CAT, art. 20 (2001)		OP-CRC-IC
			ICRMW
			OP-CRPD
			ICPPED

Other main relevant international instruments

	Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Ratification, accession or succession	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide		Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
	Palermo Protocol[4]		
	1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol		1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons
			1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

Status during previous cycle	*Action after review*	*Not ratified*
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II[5]	Additional Protocol III[6]	
ILO fundamental conventions[7]		
UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education		

1. In 2011, the Committee against Torture (CAT) and, in 2012, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recommended that Belarus ratify ICCPR-OP-2.[8]

2. In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) recommended that Belarus make a declaration, recognizing the competence of the Committee to receive and consider individual complaints.[9]

3. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended ratification of the ICRMW.[10]

4. In 2011, the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended that Belarus ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the European Convention on Nationality and the Council of Europe Convention on the Avoidance of Statelessness in relation to State Succession.[11] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that accession to the first two conventions listed above had been put on hold in 2011. It recommended acceding to them.[12]

5. In 2011, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recommended that Belarus ratify ILO Convention No. 156 on Workers with Family Responsibilities.[13]

6. CRC recommended accession to the Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court.[14]

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

7. In 2013, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) appreciated the adoption in 2010 of the Law on the Legal Status of Foreign Nationals and Stateless Persons and in 2011 of the Education Code.[15]

8. CRC recommended that Belarus accelerate the process of transforming presidential decrees pertaining to children's rights into laws enacted by the parliament, ensuring more stability for the promotion and protection of children's rights.[16]

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure and policy measures

9. In 2013, in the light of its previous recommendations and Belarus' stated intention to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with a recommendation from the 2010 universal periodic review (UPR), CAT requested information on whether it had established a mechanism in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles).[17] CESCR, CRC, CERD, CEDAW, OHCHR and special procedures had related recommendations.[18]

10. CRC recommended that Belarus strengthen and reactivate the National Commission on the Rights of the Child, or establish a new effective system of coordination for the implementation of the Convention, and ensure effective coordination mechanisms established at the national, regional and local levels.[19] The United Nations country team in Belarus (UNCT) noted that, in 2012, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Government had reached a preliminary agreement on piloting the Child Rights' Ombudsman in Minsk and that final approval was under consideration.[20]

11. In 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus noted that Belarus had moved from sixty-fifth to fiftieth position in the United Nations Development Programme Human Development index, reflecting how the State had prioritized the Millennium Development Goals into its policies and programmes.[21]

II. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

12. In 2012 Belarus submitted a mid-term progress report on the implementation of the UPR recommendations.[22]

A. Cooperation with treaty bodies[23]

1. Reporting status

Treaty body	*Concluding observations included in previous review*	*Latest report submitted since previous review*	*Latest concluding observations*	*Reporting status*
CERD	August 2004	2012	August 2013	Twentieth to twenty-third reports due in 2016
CESCR	December 1996	2010	November 2013	Seventh report due in 2018
HR Committee	October 1997			Fifth report overdue since 2001
CEDAW	January 2004	2009	January 2011	Eighth report overdue since February 2015
CAT	November 2000	2009	November 2011	Fifth report due in 2015
CRC	May 2002	2008 (CRC)/2009 (OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC)	February 2011 (CRC/ OP-CRC-AC/ OP-CRC-SC)	Fifth to sixth reports due in 2017

2. Responses to specific follow-up requests by treaty bodies

Concluding observations

Treaty body	*Due in*	*Subject matter*	*Submitted in*
CERD	2014	Implementation of the Counteracting Extremism Act; establishment of an independent human rights institution; and human trafficking.[24]	2014.[25]
CAT	2012	Fundamental legal safeguards; impunity and lack of independent investigation; and	2012[27] and 2013[28]. Dialogue ongoing on para. 14;

		monitoring and inspection of places of deprivation of liberty.[26]	information on follow-up of paras. 6 and 11 still pending.[29]
CEDAW	2012 and 2013	Violence against women; and arbitrary arrests and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of women activists.[30]	2013.[31] Follow-up information further requested.[32]

Views

Treaty body	*Number of views*	*Status*
HR Committee	30[33]	Dialogue ongoing
CEDAW	1[34]	Dialogue ongoing

B. Cooperation with special procedures[35]

	Status during previous cycle	*Current status*
Standing invitation	No	No
Visits undertaken	Arbitrary detention (2004)	
	Trafficking (2009)	
Visits agreed to in principle		Migrants
		Health
Visits requested	Freedom of expression	Freedom of association and assembly
	Human rights defenders	Human rights defenders
	Torture	Disappearances
Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals	During the period under review, 21 communications were sent to the Government, which replied to 18 of them.	

13. CAT urged Belarus to strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, particularly by permitting visits by the mandate holders of the special procedures.[36] In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus regretted that the Government had repeatedly refused to recognize his mandate and had failed to grant access to the country.[37]

C. Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. OHCHR mentioned that Belarus had pointed out that it did not recognize resolution 17/24 of the Human Rights Council and refused to cooperate with OHCHR on it.[38] The High Commissioner appreciated an invitation from Belarus for her to visit, but pointed out that the invitation could not be regarded as a substitute for a technical mission for the purpose of fulfilling the mandate under resolution 17/24.[39] UNCT noted that OHCHR had contributed to the organization of a training for law enforcement officials relating to combatting trafficking in human beings in 2013 and, together with the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, to seminars on the possible establishment of a national human rights institution and on combatting incitement to hatred and intolerance in cyberspace in 2014.[40]

III. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

A. Equality and non-discrimination

15. UNCT stated that Belarus did not have an anti-discrimination law and a legal definition of discrimination encompassing both its direct and indirect manifestations.[41] CESCR called on Belarus to ensure that its laws effectively prohibit and provide appropriate sanctions for discrimination in all fields of economic, social and cultural rights.[42]

16. CEDAW called on Belarus to consider adopting a law on gender equality or comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, including a clear definition of all forms of discrimination against women.[43] CRC raised a similar issue.[44]

17. CEDAW recommended that Belarus strengthen the capacity and financial and human resources of the National Council on Gender Policy and give priority attention to women's rights and non-discrimination and to the enjoyment of gender equality.[45] UNCT mentioned the Fourth National Plan of Action on Gender Equality (2011–2015), but more financial resources were needed for implementation.[46]

18. UNCT considered that efforts to enforce gender-related legislation, transform gender stereotypes, address structural impediments to gender equality and increase Government-civil society cooperation in gender mainstreaming could be enhanced.[47] CEDAW called on Belarus to put in place a comprehensive policy to overcome stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society.[48]

19. UNCT stated that more could be done to increase the number of women at senior levels in business, politics and public administration.[49]

20. CERD recommended that Belarus adopt comprehensive legislation specifically prohibiting racial discrimination in its direct and indirect forms, criminalizing racist organizations, racist hate speech and incitement to racial violence.[50]

21. CERD requested Belarus to provide further information on measures taken to ensure that members of the Roma community are not discriminated against and that they have equal access to education, employment, housing, identity documents, access to public places, social and other services, and that there is no negative stereotyping of Roma in the media.[51]

22. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus was concerned that there was no anti-discrimination legislation covering persons with disabilities and no single law protecting sexual minorities from discrimination.[52] He noted that homophobic discourse was widespread.[53]

23. CESCR recommended that Belarus ensure the effective prohibition of discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS and recommended that Belarus repeal or amend laws and policies that perpetuate the stigmatization and rejection of persons living with HIV/AIDS.[54] UNCT had related observations.[55]

B. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

24. The Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus recommended that Belarus advance the work of the parliamentary working group on the death penalty and introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its permanent abolition.[56] CAT called on Belarus to improve the conditions of detention of persons on death row and remedy the secrecy and arbitrariness surrounding executions.[57]

25. CAT regretted that Belarus had failed to provide sufficient information about four cases of enforced disappearances that had been raised by human rights mechanisms in 1999 and 2000.[58] In 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus noted the concerns of relatives and lawyers that the cases would be closed 15 years after the disappearances owing to the statute of limitations.[59]

26. CAT recommended, in the light of the acceptance by Belarus of recommendations under the UPR, that it define and criminalize torture in its Criminal Code in full conformity with the Convention and ensure the applicability of the Convention in its domestic legal order.[60] CAT also recommended that Belarus ensure that confessions obtained under torture or duress are not admitted in court.[61]

27. In 2011, CAT recommended that Belarus ensure that all detainees, including those held in pretrial detention facilities of the State Security Committee and under administrative detention, are afforded all fundamental legal safeguards.[62] CAT also urged Belarus to ensure that all allegations of torture and ill-treatment by public officials are promptly investigated and that the perpetrators are punished, and establish an independent and effective mechanism to facilitate submission of complaints by victims of torture and ill treatment.[63] In 2011 and 2013, Belarus stated that it did not accept these recommendations,[64] because of their biased and politicized nature,[65] and because they went beyond the scope of the Convention.[66] In 2013, CAT regretted the determination by Belarus and stressed the need for detainees to be afforded fundamental safeguards against torture in law and in practice. It also noted numerous reports that individuals detained by the authorities had been subjected to torture and ill-treatment in the immediate aftermath of deprivation of liberty.[67] CAT also reiterated its deep concern that allegations of torture and ill-treatment had not been promptly, impartially and effectively investigated by authorities, that complaints of torture made by individuals in detention were not acted upon and that detainees who complained of being the subject of torture and ill-treatment were subjected to harassment, threats and violence.[68]

28. OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus mentioned allegations of torture or ill-treatment, including victims who were political or civic activists.[69] CEDAW was concerned about the mass arrests of protestors during demonstrations following the presidential elections in December 2010 and about reports of inhuman and degrading treatment of women activists during detention.[70]

29. CAT remained deeply concerned about continuing reports of poor conditions in places of deprivation of liberty, including overcrowding. Belarus should bring the conditions of detention in places of deprivation of liberty into line with the relevant international and national law standards.[71]

30. CAT was concerned about reported acts or threats of violence against women detainees, including sexual violence, by inmates and officials, in places of detention and recommended that Belarus combat prison violence more effectively.[72]

31. CAT urged Belarus to establish fully independent bodies with the capacity to perform independent and effective unannounced visit to places of detention and grant access to independent governmental organizations and NGOs to all detention facilities in the country.[73]

32. CAT regretted reports of the alleged misuse of psychiatric hospitalization for reasons other than medical ones and the lack of inspection of psychiatric hospitals.[74]

33. CEDAW reiterated its grave concern about the persistence of violence against women and urged Belarus to intensify efforts to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women.[75] Within the follow-up framework of CEDAW, Belarus indicated that, in 2013, the lower house of parliament adopted a new version of the Act on the principles of actions to prevent offences, which reflects the provisions aimed at preventing domestic violence.[76] Nevertheless, in 2014, CEDAW stated that Belarus had failed to indicate efforts taken to prevent and prosecute acts of domestic and sexual violence against women; and integrate in its legislation explicit provisions criminalizing marital rape.[77] It recommended that Belarus expedite the adoption of the draft Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and amending the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes to specifically criminalize marital rape.[78] CEDAW further urged Belarus to provide mandatory training to judges, prosecutors and the police, train police officers and provide adequate assistance and protections to victims of violence.[79] Noting that it had been piloted in one region, UNCT recommended establishing intersectoral cooperation involving State and NGO service providers on the prevention of domestic violence in all regions.[80]

34. CRC reiterated its recommendation that Belarus prohibit all forms of corporal punishment at home, in schools and other institutions.[81]

35. CRC welcomed the amendment of the Criminal Code (art. 136) which made it a criminal offence to recruit persons under 18 years of age into armed groups other than the National Armed Forces.[82]

36. CESCR urged Belarus to abolish compulsory labour for parents that have had their parental rights removed owing to their inability to comply with their child-rearing responsibilities,[83] as well as for persons affected by alcoholism or drug dependent persons who are interned in so-called "medical-labour centres", and ensure that their rights are fully respected in practice.[84]

37. In 2010, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, made a series of recommendations on the issue, including the establishment of a national rapporteur on trafficking; ensuring that anti-trafficking measures did not violate human rights; providing training relevant to Government officials; strengthening efforts to break down the stigma of being a victim; and strengthening State structures with respect to protection and assistance to victims.[85] CESCR was concerned that the impact of measures to combat trafficking in persons was insufficient and recommended that Belarus strengthen its preventive measures and effectively address the root causes of the phenomenon.[86] CERD, CAT, CRC, CEDAW and UNCT made related recommendations.[87] CRC reminded Belarus that it was obliged under OP-CRC-SC to prohibit the sale of children.[88]

C. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

38. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus noted some positive developments arising from Presidential Decree No. 6 of November 2013 on improving the judicial system, but observed that the President remained directly responsible for the appointment, dismissal and determination of tenure of judges.[89] CESCR urged Belarus to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary, including by establishing an independent body responsible for the appointment, promotion, suspension and removal of judges.[90] Special procedures, several treaty bodies and OHCHR had similar recommendations.[91]

39. CAT was concerned about intimidation of and interference in the discharge of the professional functions of lawyers. It also remained concerned that bar associations were

subordinate to the Ministry of Justice. CAT urged Belarus to investigate the cases of lawyers who represented individuals detained in connection with the events of 19 December 2010 and were subsequently disbarred, and reinstate their licenses.[92]

40. CRC was concerned that Belarus had still not set up a comprehensive system for juvenile justice and at the long sentences of deprivation of liberty imposed on juvenile offenders, the high level of recidivism and the absence of post-release programmes. CRC urged that international juvenile justice standards be fully implemented and that a comprehensive system for juvenile justice be set up.[93]

D. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

41. CRC recommended that Belarus ensure that children in need of alternative care are placed in family-type care rather than in institutions and that they are returned to the family whenever possible. It further recommended a comprehensive periodic review mechanism for children placed in alternative care.[94]

42. CESCR was concerned that a large number of children from socially vulnerable families had been deprived of their family environment after parents had had their parental rights removed owing to their inability to comply with their child-rearing responsibilities. CESCR requested that Belarus reduce and prevent the termination of parental responsibility and ensure that children from socially vulnerable families can be raised with their parents.[95] CRC, CEDAW and UNCT raised the same topic.[96]

E. Freedom of movement

43. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus noted that some human rights activists had found their names on lists banning them from leaving the country or travelling abroad and that some members of international human rights organizations had been banned from entering Belarus.[97]

F. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

44. CRC was concerned at restrictions on freedom of religion, including the freedom to worship or assemble in connection with a religion or belief, and establish and maintain places for these purposes.[98]

45. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus stated that freedom of expression of the media continued to be curtailed by the criminalization of libel and defamation. The authorities continued to use the crimes of "libelling the President" and "insulting the President" against journalists to discourage criticism.[99] In 2013, he noted that freedom of expression had been severely restricted through arbitrary regulations and State ownership of all major media. He also referred to the use of powers by the Ministry of Information to authorize, warn and shutdown media outlets and an increasing trend of Government harassment of Internet-based expression.[100] In 2014, he mentioned that the Law on Mass Media, which required publications with circulations under 300 copies to rent offices and employ editors, seriously restricted the human rights community.[101]

46. CAT was deeply concerned by numerous and consistent allegations of serious acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and journalists and the lack of information provided on any investigations into such allegations. Belarus should

protect human rights defenders and journalists from intimidation or violence and promptly investigate and prosecute such acts.[102] In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus made similar observations and detailed a number of cases, including cases of arbitrary arrest and their sentencing for apparently political motives.[103] He recommended the immediate and unconditional release of detained human rights defenders convicted for exercising their civil and political rights and the full rehabilitation of their human rights.[104] He also noted the particular challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender defenders.[105]

47. CAT noted with concern several reports of refusal to register independent NGOs, threats and acts of criminal prosecution, arrests, raids on offices and acts of intimidation. It regretted that the Supreme Court had maintained the decision of the Ministry of Justice not to register the NGO Human Rights Centre Viasna.[106] CAT recommended that Belarus acknowledge the role of NGOs in assisting the State in fulfilling its obligations and enable them to seek and receive adequate funding to carry out their peaceful human rights activities.[107] In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus mentioned that amendments to the legislation on public associations had been made, including some positive elements, but noted that the overall restrictive nature of the legislation had not changed.[108] He called for the repeal of article 193-1 of the Criminal Code, which criminalized public activities undertaken without official permission.[109] He also noted that there was a need to review the overtly restrictive regulations relating to the registration and activities of trade unions.[110]

48. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus stated that the Law on Mass Events imposed unreasonable limits on the right of assembly and required organizers to report the "financial resources" used. Under the Law, publicity was not allowed until official permission was granted and applications were routinely denied for technical reasons.[111] He noted a record number of cases of administrative prosecution of protesters and opposition representatives in the first half of 2014 and that most unsubstantiated detentions and arrests of opposition and human rights activists had taken place in the run-up to the world ice hockey championship in May.[112] CRC was concerned about the detention of adolescents during the demonstrations of December 2010 and recommended that Belarus ensure guarantees for the full implementation of the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and peaceful assembly and access to appropriate information.[113]

G. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

49. CEDAW noted with concern that unemployment was higher among women than men and that fewer women registered as unemployed owing to low unemployment benefits and compulsory public work. It recommended that Belarus adopt additional policies and measures to achieve substantive equality of men and women in the labour market, promote employment of women, eliminate occupational segregation and close the gender wage gap.[114]

50. CESCR was concerned that young persons continued to be disproportionately affected by unemployment and recommended that Belarus take measures to reduce youth unemployment, including by addressing mismatches between education and the labour markets.[115]

51. CEDAW recommended that Belarus consider adopting civil legislation to define, prohibit and prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and to shift the burden of proof in favour of the victim.[116]

52. CESCR was concerned that short-term/fixed-term employment contracts were used in all sectors of the economy with a serious negative impact on the enjoyment of all their labour rights. CESCR requested that Belarus generate decent work opportunities with adequate protection of workers with a view to respecting their labour rights and recommended that it review the current regime of fixed-term/short-term contracts in order to limit the scale of their use and provide adequate safeguards against arbitrary non-renewal.[117]

53. In 2014, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of human rights in Belarus stated that conscripts were obliged to carry out unpaid work unrelated to their military service activities and that the authorities regularly imposed unpaid work on the working population.[118]

H. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

54. CESCR was concerned that the rate of poverty in rural areas was almost double the rate in urban areas. It recommended that Belarus combat poverty and reduce the disparities between rural and urban areas and guarantee targeted support to all those living below the poverty line.[119]

55. CRC was concerned about the situation of families with three or more children and single-parent households, which continued to be disproportionately affected by poverty. It recommended that Belarus ensure an adequate and sustainable standard of living for all children, with particular focus on the most marginalized and disadvantaged families.[120]

56. CESCR was concerned that the social security system in Belarus still did not guarantee universal coverage. It recommended that Belarus establish unemployment benefit and ensure that non-contributory pensions enable pensioners and their families to enjoy an adequate standard of living through regular indexation to the cost of living.[121]

57. CESCR recommended that Belarus address the problem of the long waiting lists in respect of social housing and ensure access to adequate housing for disadvantaged groups.[122]

I. Right to health

58. CEDAW reiterated its concern about the continued use of abortion as the main method of birth control and the limited use of contraceptives. It recommended that Belarus ensure that all women and girls have free and adequate access to contraceptives, sexual and reproductive health services and information in accessible formats.[123]

59. UNCT and CRC noted reductions in maternal and infant mortality.[124] CRC was concerned that the morbidity rate for children remained high and that children who held temporary residence permits faced difficulties in availing themselves of free-of-charge regular medical treatment. It recommended that Belarus improve the health situation of all children, including by guaranteeing free-of-charge medical treatment for all children who hold a temporary residence permit.[125] UNHCR had similar recommendations.[126]

60. CRC welcomed the adoption of the Order on Child Palliative Care, but was concerned that the majority of palliative care was provided by NGOs without sufficient financial support. It recommended that Belarus establish a funding mechanism for the provision of palliative care for children and supporting palliative care services.[127]

61. CESCR and UNCT expressed concern at the high rate of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.[128] CESCR was concerned about poor infection control measures, surveillance

and timely diagnosis,[129] and recommended that Belarus take measures to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.[130] UNCT noted the reduced number of AIDS cases in the period 2010–2013 and the commitment of the Government to increasing the purchase of anti-retroviral drugs from State funds.[131] It mentioned the need for more funding and efforts to increase anti-retroviral therapy coverage for those in need and to increase access to harm reduction services.[132]

J. Right to education

62. CRC welcomed the wide availability of preschool facilities in urban areas and recommended that Belarus increase the availability of such facilities in rural areas. While noting that primary education lasts nine years and was compulsory and free, CRC was concerned that a significant proportion of children remained out of school.[133]

63. CRC noted the reduced number of military schools for children, but was concerned that it remained high. It recommended that Belarus reduce their number, remove the military aspects of summer camps for children and shift responsibility for both to the Ministry of Education. It also recommended that Belarus consider all students under the age of 18 in the military academy as civilians and respect their rights as children.[134]

64. While noting women's high level of education, CEDAW remained concerned that women and girls continued to choose traditionally female-dominated fields of education. It recommended that Belarus diversify academic and vocational choices for women and men and take further measures to encourage women and men to choose non-traditional fields of education and careers.[135]

65. CESCR expressed its concern at the low level of education of Roma and encouraged Belarus to address the insufficient level of education of Roma, retain Roma students at school and increase attendance rates.[136] CERD, CRC and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) had related observations.[137]

66. CESCR was concerned about the limited use of the Belarusian language in education, particularly in higher education.[138] UNESCO mentioned similar concerns with respect to higher education.[139] CESCR requested that Belarus ensure that those wishing to study in Belarusian-language classes are provided with such opportunities.[140]

K. Cultural rights

67. CESCR expressed its concern at reported incidents of practical restrictions to full participation in cultural life for certain individuals and groups who wish to promote the Belarusian language and to organize cultural activities, including theatre and music performances and the unofficial commemoration of historical events.[141]

L. Persons with disabilities

68. CRC noted as positive the implementation of rehabilitation and vocational training programmes to promote the integration into society of children with disabilities. It was concerned, however, that there was no comprehensive national policy on children with disabilities and that many children with intellectual disabilities were still living in residential institutions and did not receive access to education and other community-based services, especially in rural areas. CRC recommended that Belarus develop a national policy on children with disabilities, provide adequate support to parents of children with

severe disabilities, ensure access to education for all children with disabilities and integrate them into mainstream education.[142]

69. CESCR was concerned that the employment rate among persons with disabilities was very low and that there was no legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation in the workplace unless one's disability was caused by occupational injury or illness.[143] UNCT stated that more efforts were needed to combat social stereotypes and provide further legislative guarantees for the employment of persons with disabilities.[144]

M. Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

70. CAT recommended that Belarus revise its current procedures and practices in the area of expulsion, refoulement and extradition in order to fulfil its obligations. Belarus should also guarantee better protection for asylum seekers, refugees and other persons in need of international protection and improve the quality of the refugee status determination procedure.[145] CRC raised similar recommendations with regard to undocumented, unaccompanied or separated children.[146]

71. UNHCR made recommendations to Belarus, including that it enable the receipt of asylum applications from foreigners situated in airport transit zones; review the definition of complementary protection in order to enable coverage of wider groups of persons; amend the Law on Refugees to so as to contain only exclusion clauses that are in line with the provisions of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; increase accommodation for asylum seekers; and take over activities for the local integration of refugees from UNHCR and its partners.[147]

72. CRC encouraged the establishment of an identification process to identify refugee and asylum seeking children who might have been recruited or used in hostilities abroad, and that the measures necessary for their recovery and reintegration be taken.[148]

73. UNHCR recommended that Belarus seek its support and expertise on issues relating to statelessness and establish and operate a statelessness determination procedure.[149] Noting a high number of stateless persons in the country, CRC made similar recommendations and urged Belarus to ensure the implementation of the right of all children to acquire a nationality in order to prevent statelessness and to collect data on stateless children.[150]

N. Right to development and environmental issues

74. CRC reiterated its concern regarding the persisting negative consequences of the Chernobyl disaster on the health of children as well as its recommendation that Belarus improve the specialized health care provided to children affected by the disaster and strengthen its efforts at early detection and prevention of diseases related to nuclear contamination.[151] UNCT stated that more efforts were needed to improve opportunities for income generation in Chernobyl-affected areas.[152]

O. Human rights and counter-terrorism

75. CERD was concerned that the Counteracting Extremism Act could be interpreted and enforced in an excessively broad manner and recommended that Belarus ensure that it is adheres strictly to the principles and provisions of the Convention in the interpretation and application of this Act and in its enforcement.[153]

Notes

[1] Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratification of instruments listed in the table may be found on the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://treaties.un.org/. Please also refer to the United Nations compilation on Belarus from the previous cycle (A/HRC/WG.6/8/BLR/2).

[2] The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
OP-ICESCR	Optional Protocol to ICESCR;
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
ICCPR-OP 1	Optional Protocol to ICCPR;
ICCPR-OP 2	Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
OP-CEDAW	Optional Protocol to CEDAW;
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
OP-CAT	Optional Protocol to CAT;
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child;
OP-CRC-AC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict;
OP-CRC-SC	Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
OP-CRC-IC	Optional Protocol to CRC on a communications procedure;
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
OP-CRPD	Optional Protocol to CRPD;
ICPPED	International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

[3] Individual complaints: ICCPR-OP 1, art. 1; OP-CEDAW, art. 1; OP-CRPD, art. 1; OP-ICESCR, art. 1; OP-CRC-IC, art. 5; ICERD, art. 14; CAT, art. 22; ICRMW, art. 77; and ICPPED, art. 31. Inquiry procedure: OP-CEDAW, art. 8; CAT, art. 20; ICPPED, art. 33; OP-CRPD, art. 6; OP-ICESCR, art. 11; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 13. Inter-State complaints: ICCPR, art. 41; ICRMW, art. 76; ICPPED, art. 32; CAT, art. 21; OP-ICESCR, art. 10; and OP-CRC-IC, art. 12. Urgent action: ICPPED, art. 30.

[4] Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

[5] Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); and Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II). For the official status of ratifications, see International Committee of the Red Cross at https://www.icrc.org/IHL.

[6] Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications see International Committee of the Red Cross at https://www.icrc.org/IHL.

[7] International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning

Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organise and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

[8] See concluding observations of the Committee against Torture (CAT/C/BLR/CO/4), para. 27, and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Belarus (A/HRC/20/8), para. 75(m).

[9] See concluding observations on the combined eighteenth to nineteenth periodic reports of Belarus (CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19), para. 23.

[10] See the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/14/32/Add.2), para. 96(d).

[11] See concluding observations of CRC (CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4), para. 34. See also CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 26; and the list of issues of CAT (CAT/C/BLR/QPR/5), para. 12.

[12] See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), submission to the UPR of Belarus, pp. 2 and 9.

[13] See concluding observations of CEDAW (CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7), para. 34 (d).

[14] See concluding observations of CRC (CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/CO/1), para. 22.

[15] See concluding observations of CESCR (E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6), para. 4.

[16] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 9.

[17] See list of issues prior to submission of the fifth periodic report of Belarus (CAT/C/BLR/QPR/5), para. 27. See also CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 15; Letter from CAT to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 3 July 2013, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CAT_FUL_BLR_13754_E.pdf; A/HRC/15/16, paras. 97 and 97.4.

[18] See E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 7; CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 7; CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 15; CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 16(c); A/HRC/20/8, para. 75(l); and the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus (A/HRC/26/44), para. 139 (e).

[19] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 11.

[20] See United Nations country team (UNCT), submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 10.

[21] See the report of the Special Rapporteur (A/HRC/23/52), para. 4.

[22] Available from www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx.

[23] The following abbreviations have been used in the present document:

CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
HR Committee	Human Rights Committee;
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
CAT	Committee against Torture;
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child;
CMW	Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families;
CRPD	Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
CED	Committee on Enforced Disappearances;
SPT	Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

[24] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 25.

[25] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19/Add.1.

[26] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 34.

[27] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4/Add.2.

[28] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4/Add.3.

[29] See letter from CAT to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 3 July 2013, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CAT_FUL_BLR_13754_E.pdf.

[30] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 50.

[31] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7/Add.1.

[32] See letter from CEDAW to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 10 September 2014, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CEDAW_FUL_BLR_18189_E.pdf.

[33] CCPR/C/99/D/1502/2006, CCPR/C/99/D/1377/2005, CCPR/C/100/D/1354/2005, CCPR/C/100/D/1390/2005, CCPR/C/100/D/1383/2005, CCPR/C/101/D/1604/2007, CCPR/C/103/D/1316/2004, CCPR/C/103/D/1838/2008, CCPR/C/104/D/1750/2008, CCPR/C/104/D/1772/2008, CCPR/C/104/D/1820/2008, CCPR/C/105/D/1867/2009, 1936/2010, 1975/2010, 1977/2010, 1978/2010, 1979/2010, 1980/2010, 1981/2010 and 2010/2010, CCPR/C/105/D/1226/2003, CCPR/C/105/D/1784/2008, CCPR/C/105/D/1790/2008, CCPR/C/110/D/1864/2009, CCPR/C/110/D/1903/2009, CCPR/C/109/D/1839/2008, CCPR/C/109/D/1851/2008, CCPR/C/109/D/1910/2009, CCPR/C/109/D/1919-1920/2009, CCPR/C/108/D/1808/2008, CCPR/C/108/D/1948/2010, CCPR/C/108/D/1592/2007, CCPR/C/106/D/1830/2008, CCPR/C/106/D/1836/2008, CCPR/C/106/D/2120/2011, CCPR/C/100/D/1383/2005, CCPR/C/99/D/1502/2006, and CCPR/C/94/D/1178/2003.

[34] CEDAW/C/49/D/23/2009.

[35] For the titles of special procedures, see www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Themes.aspx.

[36] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 14 (b). See also para. 29; A/HRC/15/16, paras. 97 and 97.17; CAT/C/BLR/QPR/5, para. 19 (d); and letter from CAT to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 3 July 2013, p. 4, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CAT_FUL_BLR_13754_E.pdf.

[37] A/69/307, para. 9. See also A/HRC/23/52, para. 32; A/68/276, paras. 6 and 7; A/HRC/26/44, paras. 17 and 18.

[38] A/HRC/20/8, para. 3.

[39] Ibid., para. 4.

[40] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, paras. 9, 23 and 87.

[41] Ibid., para. 31.

[42] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 8 (a).

[43] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 11 and 12.

[44] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 27 and 28.

[45] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 16 (a).

[46] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 11.

[47] Ibid., para. 32.

[48] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 18 (a).

[49] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, paras. 26 and 27. See also CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 7 and 23 and 24; A/HRC/23/52, paras. 97 and 97.42.

[50] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 9.

[51] Ibid., para. 16. See also CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 27 and 28.

[52] A/HRC/23/52, paras. 94 and 119 (j); A/69/307, para. 84.

[53] A/69/307, para. 84.

[54] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 24.

[55] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, paras. 34-36.

[56] A/HRC/23/52, paras. 42-45 and 119 (c); A/HRC/20/8, paras. 69-72 and 75 (m). See also UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, paras. 37 and 38.

[57] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 27.

[58] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 9.

[59] A/HRC/23/52, para. 48. See also paras. 46, 47 and 49.

[60] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, paras. 16 and 17. See also A/HRC/15/16, paras. 97, 97.28 and 98.21; A/HRC/15/16/Add.1.

[61] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 18.

[62] Ibid., para. 6.

[63] Ibid., para. 11.

[64] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4/Add.1, para. 6. See also paras. 3-5.

[65] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4/Add.3, para. 3.

[66] Ibid., para. 4.

[67] Letter from CAT to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 3 July 2013, pp. 1 and 2, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CAT_FUL_BLR_13754_E.pdf. See also CAT/C/BLR/QPR/5, paras. 2 and 3.

[68] Ibid., p. 2. See also CAT/C/BLR/QPR/5, paras. 24-26.

[69] A/HRC/20/8, paras. 46-49; A/HRC/23/52, paras. 50-55; A/HRC/26/44, paras. 39-43; A/HRC/69/307, paras. 68-71.

[70] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 25 and 26. See also letter from CEDAW to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 10 September 2014, p. 4, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CEDAW_FUL_BLR_18189_E.pdf; CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 35 and 36.

[71] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 19.

[72] Ibid., para. 20.

[73] Ibid., paras. 13 and 14. See also A/HRC/20/8, para. 75(c).

[74] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 13.

[75] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 19 and 20. See also letter from CEDAW to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 10 September 2014, p. 1, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CEDAW_FUL_BLR_18189_E.pdf.

[76] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7/Add.1. See also Letter from CEDAW to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 10 September 2014, p. 2, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CEDAW_FUL_BLR_18189_E.pdf.

[77] Letter from CEDAW to the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, dated 10 September 2014, pp. 1 and 2, available from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/BLR/INT_CEDAW_FUL_BLR_18189_E.pdf.

[78] Ibid., p. 3.

[79] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 20 (d) and (f). See also CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 22; E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 19; CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 73, 49 and 50.

[80] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 40.

[81] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 40. See also UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 43.

[82] CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/CO/1, paras. 14 and 15.

[83] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 20.

[84] Ibid., para. 15.

[85] A/HRC/14/32/Add.2, paras. 97-113.

[86] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 21.

[87] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 17; CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 23; CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 21 and 22; CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 69 and 70; UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 90.

[88] CRC/C/OPSC/BLR/CO/1, paras. 7 and 8; and CRC/C/OPSC/BLR/CO/1, paras. 23 and 24.

[89] A/HRC/26/44, para. 33.

[90] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 6.

[91] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 12; CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 14; A/HRC/23/52, para. 119 (e); A/68/276, para. 118 (f); and A/HRC/20/8, para. 75 (i).

[92] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 12. See also CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 14; A/HRC/23/52, para. 119 (f); A/68/276, para. 118 (g); A/HRC/26/44, paras. 139 (f)-(g); and A/HRC/20/8, para. 75 (i).

[93] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 71 and 72.

[94] Ibid., para. 46.

[95] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 20.

[96] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 42 and 43; CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 43 and 44; and UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 53.

[97] A/69/307, paras. 34, 72 and 73.

[98] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 37.

[99] A/69/307, para. 78. See also A/HRC/23/52, paras. 40 and 80; and A/68/276, para. 118(d).

[100] A/HRC/23/52, paras. 73-76. See also A/68/276, paras. 39, 40 and 118 (e).

[101] A/69/307, para. 80. See also A/HRC/26/44, paras. 75 and 76.
[102] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 25.
[103] A/HRC/26/44, paras. 48-63. See also A/HRC/23/52, paras. 70-73, A/68/276, paras. 76-82, and A/69/307, paras. 61-67.
[104] A/69/307, para. 93 (a). See also A/HRC/23/52, para. 119 (a); A/69/307, para. 93 (b); A/HRC/26/44, para. 139 (a)-(b).
[105] A/69/307, paras. 84-87.
[106] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 25.
[107] Ibid., para. 25. See also CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 27-28; and CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 23 and 24.
[108] A/69/307, paras. 45 and 47.
[109] A/HRC/26/44, paras. 95, 96 and 139 (b). See also A/68/276, paras. 51 and 118 (n); and A/69/307, paras. 43, 51 and 93 (d).
[110] A/HRC/26/44, para. 106. See also paras. 101-105 and 139(p); A/HRC/23/52, paras. 103-107.
[111] A/69/307, paras. 74 and 75. See also A/HRC/23/52, paras. 82 and 111; A/68/276, paras. 63-65, 68, 71-72 and 118 (r); and A/HRC/264/44, paras. 87 and 132 (l).
[112] A/69/307, paras. 66, 76-77 and 93 (k).
[113] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 35 and 36. See also CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 25 and 26.
[114] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 31 and 32. See also E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 12.
[115] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 13.
[116] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 32 (f).
[117] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 14.
[118] A/HRC/26/44, para. 112.
[119] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 22. See also CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, para. 40.
[120] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 63 and 64.
[121] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 18.
[122] Ibid., para. 23.
[123] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 35 and 36.
[124] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 68; and CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, para. 53. See also A/HRC/15/16, paras. 97.97.45 and 97.46.
[125] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 53 and 54.
[126] UNHCR, submission to the UPR of Belarus, p. 6. See also UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 83.
[127] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 55 and 56.
[128] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 26; and UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 69.
[129] Ibid., para. 26.
[130] Ibid., para. 24. See also CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 59 and 60.
[131] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 71.
[132] Ibid., para. 72.
[133] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 65 and 66.
[134] CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/CO/1, paras. 10 and 11.
[135] CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 29 and 30.
[136] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 27.
[137] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 16; CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 27-28; and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 27.3.
[138] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 29.
[139] UNESCO, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 9.
[140] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 29.
[141] Ibid., para. 30.
[142] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 51 and 52.
[143] E/C.12/BLR/CO/4-6, para. 9.
[144] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 77.
[145] CAT/C/BLR/CO/4, para. 26. See also UNHCR, submission to the UPR of Belarus, p. 5; and UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 83.
[146] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 67 and 68.

[147] UNHCR, submission to the UPR of Belarus, pp. 5-7. See also UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 83.
[148] CRC/C/OPAC/BLR/CO/1, para. 19.
[149] UNHCR, submission to the UPR of Belarus, p. 9.
[150] CRC/C/BLR/CO/3-4, paras. 33 and 34.
[151] Ibid., paras. 57 and 58. See also CEDAW/C/BLR/CO/7, paras. 37 and 38.
[152] UNCT, submission to the UPR of Belarus, para. 92.
[153] CERD/C/BLR/CO/18-19, para. 10.